

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 /075 W

----- 016400

R 131600Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4286

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

UFHNA/USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS 509

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: RESTRICTIONS ON VOTE OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRANTS

REF: A) LISBON 715; B) STATE 028313

1. AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL B), DCM APPROACHED MFA SECRETARY-
GENERAL PIERRE WURTH TO URGE THAT GOL FACILITATE POSSIBLE
ABSENTEE VOTING BY PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN LUXEMBOURG.
WURTH REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO PORTUGUESE
RESIDENTS VOTING IN PORTUGUESE CONSULATE HERE, AND PROMISED
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TO URGE FOREIGN MINISTER THORN TO SUGGEST THAT EC FOREIGN

MINISTERS, POSSIBLY AT FEBRUARY 13 DUBLIN POLITICAL CONSULTATION MEETING, ISSUE STATEMENT EXPRESSING PLEASURE AT ANNOUNCEMENT OF APRIL 12 ELECTIONS AND SUPPORT FOR CONTINUING PROGRESS OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN PORTUGAL.

2. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED RESIDENT PORTUGUESE CHARGE HERE TO GET HIS VIEW ON VOTING BY RESIDENT PORTUGUESE COMMUNITY. CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT 28,000 PORTUGUESE NATIONALS RESIDE IN LUXEMBOURG, OF WHOM ROUGHLY 15,000, OR ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE PORTUGAL LESS THAN FIVE YEARS WERE TECHNICALLY ELIGIBLE TO VOTE, BUT THAT ONLY 800 HAD REGISTERED TO VOTE DURING THE SPECIAL THIRTY DAY PERIOD SET ASIDE FOR THAT PURPOSE THAT ENDED ON JANUARY 15. CHARGE SAID THAT HE WAS NOT NOW ALLOWED TO REGISTER ANY NEW PORTUGUESE NATIONALS INTERESTED IN VOTING. DESCRIBING THE INSTRUCTIONS HE IS RECEIVING FROM MFA IN LISBON AS IN FLUX, CHARGE SAID MFA IS CONSIDERING FEASABILITY OF MODIFYING ELECTION LAW SO THAT PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN THE FRG COULD VOTE BY MAIL IF BONN COULD BE PREVAILED UPON TO PERMIT THIS. CHARGE ALSO SAID THAT OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PORTUGUESE RESIDENTS IN LUXEMBOURG WOULD VOTE FOR EITHER PPD OR PSP, BUT THAT PARTICIPATION IN APRIL 12 ELECTION WOULD BE MINIMAL UNLESS LISBON AUTHORIZES A NEW VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD AND/OR PERMITS ABSENTEE BALLOTING BY MAIL.FARKAS

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